CLAIMS

1. A method of transporting SCSI data packets over a network to a destination, the method including the steps of

encapsulating a SCSI data packet within an MPLS header structure, said structure including a MPLS label,

assigning the data packet to a forward equivalence class; and

transporting the labelled data packet, according to the MPLS protocol, to its destination.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1 including the step of establishing a Label Switched Path for the mSCSI PDU using an MPLS routing protocol prior to assigning the mSCSI PDU to a forward equivalence class.

3. A method of transporting SCSI data packets over a network to a destination, the method including the steps of

encapsulating a SCSI data packet within an MPLS header structure, forming an mSCSI protocol data unit (mSCSI PDU);

assigning the mSCSI PDU to a forward equivalence class;

labelling the mSCSI PDU according to the MPLS protocol; and

transporting the labelled data packet, according to the MPLS protocol, to its destination.

4. A method as claimed in claim 3 including the step of establishing a Label Switched Path for the mSCSI PDU using an MPLS routing protocol prior to assigning the mSCSI PDU to a forward equivalence class.

5. A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the Label Switched Path specifies the routing that is to be imposed on the data packets when carried on the MPLS network.

6. A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the MPLS routing protocol is CR-LDP, RSVP-TE or similar.

7. A method of transporting iSCSI protocol data units over a network to a destination, the method including the steps of:

assigning an iSCSI protocol data unit to a forward equivalence class;

labelling the iSCSI protocol data unit according to the MPLS protocol; and

transporting the labelled iSCSI protocol data unit on an MPLS network core.

8. A method of transporting iSCSI protocol data units (iSCSI PDUs) over an MPLS network including the steps of:

establishing a label switched path for an iSCSI PDU using an MPLS routing protocol;

assigning the iSCSI PDU to a particular forward equivalence class;

labelling the iSCSI PDU with an MPLS label to form a MPLS data packet; and

transporting the labelled data packet according to the MPLS protocol.

9. A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the Label Switched Path specifies the routing that is to be imposed on the data packets when carried on the MPLS network.

10. A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the MPLS routing protocol is CR-LDP, RSVP-TE or similar.

11. A network configured to operate in accordance with the method as claimed in claim 1.

12. A network configured to operate in accordance with the method as claimed in claim 7.

13. A network configured to operate in accordance with the method as claimed in claim 8.

14. One or more host computers configured to carry out the method as claimed in claim 7.

15. One or more host computers configured to carry out the method as claimed in claim 8.

16. One or more host computers configured to carry out the method as claimed in claim 1.

17. A memory storing a program for causing a network to be operated in accordance with the method of claim 1.

18. A memory storing a program for causing a network to be operated in accordance with the method of claim 7.

19. A memory storing a program for causing a network to be operated in accordance with the method of claim 8.